(c) and (d) Between April-December, 1993, 20.7 lakh tonnes of urea has been imported involving a foreign exchange outgo equivalent to Rs. 703.41 crores.

Multinational Companies Flouting Government's Price Regulations

439. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that several multinational pharmaceutical companies are flouting Government't price regulations by leasing out their brand names to the manufacturers in the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof stating the steps taken by Government to identify the Multinational Drug Companies flouting the price norms; and

(c) what action has been taken/is proposed to be taken by Government to check the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) Leasing of brand names by Pharmaceutical Companies is not governed under the Drugs (Prices Control) order, 1987 but through the Trade & Merchandise Mark Act of 1958. However, as per the notification No. S.O. 719(E) dated 21.7.88, Small Scale Units manufacturing Category II formulations, are exempted from seeking price approval, provided such formulations are marketed by the concerned unit/company in their own brand names or in the brand name of any other SSI unit.

The concerned State Drug Controllers are empowered to take appropriate action on any violations under the DPCO.

Scheme for revival and modernisation of Barauni Unit of HFC

440. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation has forwarded any scheme to the Union Government to revive and modernise its Barauni unit;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by Government for its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND THE DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b) After examining various alternatives for rehabilitation of Barauni unit of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Limited (HFC), the company has suggested setting up of a new naphtha based ammonia plant and matching urea plant at the existing site.

(c) The management of HFC, with the approval of their Board of Directors, had referred the company, including its Barauni unit, to the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) in terms of the provisions of Sick Industrial Companies (Special) Provisions Act, 1985. The BIFR declared HFC as a sick company on 12.11.1992. Any decision on the future of Barauni unit would depend on the outcome of the deliberations pending before the SIFR which is a quasi-judicial authority.

Prices of Medicines

441. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that increase in the prices of medicines is higher than that of all other commodities;

(b) what are the names of the medicines both controlled and deconstrolled, whose prices have gone up by more than 30 per cent from 1st July, 1992 to 30th June, 1993; and